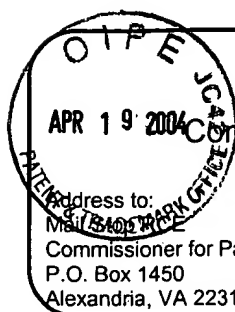


4-21-04

Image \$ RCE 1745



Request  
For  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal

Address to:  
Mail Room  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/489,515
Filing Date	January 21, 2000
First Named Inventor	S. R. Narayanan, et al.
Group Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	J. Mercado
Attorney Docket Number	06618-408001

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.**  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)
  - a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
    - i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☒ Enclosed
    - i. ☒ Preliminary Amendment/Reply
    - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
    - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Miscellaneous**
  - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
  - b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
  - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
    - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
    - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
    - iii. ☒ Other Any deficiencies
  - b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 540 enclosed
  - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Dale L. Rieger	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	43,045
Signature		Date	April 19, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

04/22/2004 BABRAHA1 00000106 09489515

01 FC:2801  
02 FC:2252

385.00 OP  
155.00 OP

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Date of Deposit: **April 19, 2004**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : S. R. Narayanan, et al.                      Art Unit : 1745  
Serial No. : 09/489,515                                      Examiner : J. Mercado  
Filed : January 21, 2000  
Title : MEMBRANE ELECTRODE ASSEMBLY FOR A FUEL CELL

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

In connection with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-captioned application, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and entry of the following amendment and remarks, which are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on November 18, 2003, and to the Advisory Action mailed on April 13, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

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